



SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

neighborhood
WATCH

www.skokiepolice.org

"It is the mission of the Skokie Police Department to proactively and professionally deliver law enforcement services to the people of Skokie in order to enhance the quality of life through the preservation of peace and order."

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It establishes bonds among Skokie residents, reduces burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the community.

Why Neighborhood Watch?

It works! Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by police departments in communities with Neighborhood Watch programs.

Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty home in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know each other is a prime target.

Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a catalyst for efforts to address community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

What about Multi-Family Buildings and Apartments?

Neighborhood Watches can be formed around any apartment building, townhouse complex, park, business district or other types of residential homes.



What are my Responsibilities as a Neighborhood Watch Member?

- Be Alert! Develop a watchful, concerned attitude. Be aware of what's going on in your area of the neighborhood.
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other!
- Report suspicious persons, vehicles and activities to the police immediately.
- Learn how to make yourself and your community safer.
- Let someone in your group know when your home will be unoccupied and watch your neighbors' home when they are away.
- Have a Skokie Police Officer conduct a security survey of your home. You can schedule one online [here](#).
- Attend meetings with other Neighborhood Watch group members.

And Remember...

Neighborhood Watch allows you to determine the frequency of your meetings.

It does not ask that any watch member take personal risk and there is no loss of privacy.

Neighborhood Watch leaves the responsibility for apprehending criminals where it belongs...with the **Police**.



How do I Start a Neighborhood Watch?

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, a community organization, or a law enforcement agency can spearhead the efforts to establish a Watch. Together they can:

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems.
- Select a coordinator or block captain volunteer who will be responsible for relaying information to neighbors.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interest; establish the purpose of the program; and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed.

- Fill out the Neighborhood Watch Interest form online or contact the Skokie Police Crime Prevention Unit at **(847) 982-5922** or crime.prevention@skokie.org to register your Neighborhood Watch group and meet with the program coordinator.
- Continuously recruit members, keeping up-to-date information on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people.

See Something, Say Something!

- **Suspicious People** – loitering, soliciting, looking in vehicles or home windows
- **Suspicious Vehicles** – repeat trips to neighborhood, parked occupied at unusual hours, left abandoned on street
- **Suspicious Activity** – loud noises, sound of breaking glass, frequent random visitors entering a home, property being removed from a home or business.

Ask for a Security Survey!

Security Surveys cover home safety, house and business alarms, locking systems, lighting and parking issues. An Officer will check a number of security factors and also make recommendations about the interior of a home/business, such as ways to improve security of doors and windows.

Request a Residential Security Check at www.skokiepolice.org or by contacting the Desk Officer through dispatch at 847/ 982-5922.

Be advised: The most effective prevention for a burglary while you are away from home is the watchfulness of a neighbor and the utilization of an alarm and video security system.

Our policy states that the residents must be leaving for a minimum of four days.

The maximum time frame for Residential Security checks will be for two months. If you expect an absence longer than that, please ask a neighbor to check in on your property or hire a private security firm.

The Skokie Police Department will check condos and townhomes ONLY if there are direct outside entrances.

Officers will perform physical checks at registered Residential Security Request homes at least once every four days.

How to Report Suspicious Activity:

- Call 9-1-1
- Provide your name and location to the dispatcher
- Explain what happened
- Describe suspicious people by sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, and clothing
- Describe suspicious vehicles by color, make, model, license plate or special items such as racks, ladders, lettering, and stickers

This program adheres to a simple philosophy, "neighbors watching out for neighbors." Currently **262 Blocks** strong, the Skokie Neighborhood Watch program continues to grow as more and more citizens communicate and demonstrate concern for *their* neighbors and neighborhoods.

Once established, there are social benefits of the program as well. Not only does a Neighborhood Watch provide raised neighborhood awareness, enhanced sense of community and cooperation, and increased person-to-person neighbor interaction, but gives members a sense of belonging and offers the opportunity to contribute to the greater good, a safe and healthy community.

Quarterly, the Department publishes a Neighborhood Watch Newsletter for distribution to Watch members. A copy of the current newsletter can always be found at www.skokiepolice.org

To determine if your block is involved in Neighborhood Watch, check the Neighborhood Watch Participation Map [here](#) or by navigating to www.skokiepolice.org

Stay Informed with...

The [Official Skokie Public Safety Bulletin](#) provides information on crime and public safety in the community.

The bulletin is updated automatically nearly every weekday and provides residents with information about crimes committed within the Village, criminal investigations, comments received from the community, and safety tips.

You'll find a link to the Official Skokie Public Safety Bulletin on the Police Department Facebook page and at www.skokiepolice.org

SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

www.skokiepolice.org

Program Coordinator: (847) 982-5922

7300 Niles Center Road
Skokie, IL 60077

EMERGENCY: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency: (847) 982-5900

Crime Tip Hotline: (847) 933-TIPS (8477)

Text-A-Tip: Text "Skokie" and your tip to 847411

Email: crime.prevention@skokie.org